

Construction Update: Bridge

Reconstruction of the bridge on East Main Street finally started last week. The city started planning for the project following a routine inspection in December 2002; formal planning and scheduling of the project with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) began in 2005. WisDOT is the lead for the project. They bid out the project this spring and awarded it to Concrete Structures of Janesville.

The project started with removal of the bridge deck. Next they drove temporary steel sheet pilings to hold the embankments during construction on the east side of Allen Creek. They will then remove the existing foundation on the east side then drive new pilings. A similar sequence will then occur on the west side of the creek.

Then under a separate contract with the city, R.T. Fox Contractors out of Edgerton has a two week window to install a new watermain. The project will involve percussion driving of a steel casing under the bed of Allen Creek in between the new pilings. With the percussion driving method, the casing will remain full of soil until across the creek and then be cleaned out and the watermain pulled through.

After the watermain, Concrete Structures will pour the superstructure of the new bridge. They will form and pour new sidewalks, install the parapets, and prepare and pave the new roadway over the bridge structure. And miscellaneous work such as signage and turf restoration will round out the project. It is expected to be completed and opened to traffic around mid October.

In the meantime, downtown businesses are open. They are readily accessible, and the detour around the bridge construction is short and easy. A map of downtown area businesses as well as information on the bridge construction can be found on the city website www.ci.evansville.wi.gov.